

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2237

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: FANFANI OUSTED AS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SECRETARY

REF: ROME 10519 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FANFANI WAS REMOVED AS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

(DC) SECRETARY WHEN HE FAILED TO WIN CONFIDENCE VOTE DURING

JULY 22 SESSION OF DC NATIONAL COUNCIL. THE FINAL VOTE WAS

103 AGAINST, WITH 69 IN FAVOR, 8 ABSTENTIONS AND 27 VOTING

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MEMBERS ABSENT. FANFANI'S OUSTER WAS DUE TO INTERNAL DC

POWER STRUGGLES SET OFF BY DC LOSSES AND DRAMATIC COMMUNIST GAINS IN THE JUNE 15 REGIONAL ELECTIONS AND TO THE FACT THAT HE WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY WITH WHICH THE DC HOPES TO RENEW A DIALOGUE IN THE FALL. THE DC NATIONAL COUNCIL WILL MEET AGAIN JULY 24 TO ELECT A SUCCESSOR. END SUMMARY.

1. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DC) SECRETARY FANFANI WAS DEFEATED ON EVENING OF JULY 22 ON CONFIDENCE VOTE IN DC NATIONAL COUNCIL AND THUS AUTOMATICALLY REMOVED AS PARTY SECRETARY. DC LEFT-WING FACTIONS JOINED WITH MODERATE PICCOLI-RUMOR AND ANDREOTTI FORCES IN VOTING AGAINST FANFANI. FACTIONS LED BY FANFANI AND PREMIER MORO SUPPORTED THE PARTY SECRETARY, WHILE FOLLOWERS OF TREASURY MINISTER COLOMBO BACKED AWAY FROM THEIR EARLIER FIRM ANTI-FANFANI POSITION AND ABSTAINED. THE FINAL VOTE WAS 103 AGAINST APPROVING FANFANI'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL, 69 IN FAVOR, 8 ABSTENTIONS AND 27 VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT. PARTY VICE-SECRETARY FRANCA FALCUCCI ASSUMED THE ROLE OF ACTING SECRETARY. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL WAS THEN RECONVOKED FOR JULY 24 TO ELECT A NEW PARTY LEADER.

2. FANFANI'S OUSTER WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY A COALITION OF FORCES UNITED IN THEIR DESIRE TO GET RID OF HIM. THERE IS NO CONSENSUS ON A NEW POLICY. THE 2 PARTY LEFT-WING FACTIONS HAVE OPPOSED FANFANI CONSISTENTLY IN THE PAST ON POLICY GROUNDS. THE PICCOLI-RUMOR FACTION AND ANDREOTTI HAVE SUPPORTED FANFANI'S POLICIES, BUT HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN CHAFING UNDER HIS PERSONAL STYLE OF LEADERSHIP AND HAVE BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR ALLOTTED SHARE OF INFLUENCE WITHIN THE PARTY. MORO, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS GENERALLY REPRESENTED THE ALTERNATE POLE OF DC POLICY, MORE SYMPATHETIC TO SOCIALIST (PSI) WISHES AND LESS RIGID IN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI). MORO, HOWEVER, SUPPORTED FANFANI IN HIS RECENT LOSING BATTLE BECAUSE OF THEIR TWO-YEAR-OLD POLITICAL ALLIANCE WITHIN THE DC AND IN ORDER TO HELP INSULATE THE SHAKY MORO GOVERNMENT FROM THE BACKLASH OF INTERNAL PARTY FIGHTS.

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3. FANFANI'S REMOVAL MUST THUS BE SEEN AT LEAST PARTIALLY IN TERMS OF TRADITIONAL INTRA-PARTY FACTIONAL STRUGGLES, TRIGGERED BY DC LOSSES AND UNEXPECTEDLY HEAVY COMMUNIST GAINS IN THE JUNE 15 REGIONAL ELECTIONS. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN THE MINDS OF HIS OPPONENTS HAS BEEN THE FACT THAT FANFANI HAD BECOME PERSONALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SOCIALISTS AS AN INTER-LOCUTOR FOR THE INEVITABLY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS AIMED

AT RE-ESTABLISHING DC-SOCIALIST PARTY COLLABORATION. HE HAS ALSO BEEN UNDER HEAVY PERSONAL ATTACK BY THE PCI, WHOSE DAILY PAPER GAVE EXHULTANT BANNER HEADLINES TODAY TO HIS FALL.

4. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT THE EFFECT OF FANFANI'S REMOVAL WILL BE ON DC POLICIES. SINCE THE JUNE 15 ELECTIONS MOVED THE POLITICAL AXIS TO THE LEFT, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE DC WILL SOONER OR LATER ADAPT ITSELF TO THE NEW BALANCE OF FORCES. A NEW PARTY SECRETARY WOULD BE IN A FAR BETTER POSITION TO CARRY OUT SUCH A POLICY SHIFT THAN FANFANI. MORO MAY HAVE POINTED OUT THE DIRECTION FOR SUCH A SHIFT WHEN HE SPOKE ON JULY 20 OF THE NEED TO HAVE "SERIOUS CONTACTS (WITH THE PCI) IN THE ELABORATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM(S)" AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. IRONICALLY, ANDREOTTI, WHO PROVED TO BE AMONG FANFANI'S MOST UNRELENTING OPPONENTS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING, EMPHASIZED THAT HE OPPOSED NEITHER FANFANI PERSONALLY NOR HIS POLICIES, BUT RATHER FELT THAT FANFANI WAS NOT OPEN ENOUGH TO CHANGE WITHIN THE PARTY.

5. DC SOURCES INDICATE THAT A MAJORITY HAS NOT YET AGREED ON A NEW PARTY LEADER. THE MAIN POSSIBILITIES REMAIN AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED: DC CHAMBER GROUP PRESIDENT PICCOLI OR A COLLEGIAL LEADERSHIP TO PREPARE FOR A PARTY CONGRESS IN THE FALL. HOWEVER, THE SITUATION IS STILL CONFUSED AND OTHER COMPROMISE CANDIDATES (E.G., ANDREOTTI OR BISAGLIA) ARE POSSIBLE. VOLPE

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